Expertise of Pepsico in the Field of Fruit and Vegetable Processing

301. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the expertise of PepsiCo in the field of fruit and vegetable processing and whether its nature and quality was examined by the CSIR or any other National institution and if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) the details of the items which are likely to be imported by the PepsiCo and its value yearwise;

(c) whether import of flavours of mixture odoriferous substances are likely to be permitted and if so, the value thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the percentage of import content and the value added in the soft during concentrate plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Pepsico, in its plant in Frankfurt, Federal Republic of Germany manufactures several varieties of orange and limejuice concentrates. In the United States of America, Pepsico has the largest aspect packaging plant for concentrated fruit juice. The Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, and Central Scientific and Industrial Research were consulted and their views were taken into account before aproving the project.

(b) to (d) The details of raw materials to be imported and the value addition will be known only as and when applications are preferred for import.

All imports shall strictly conform to the Government of India's policies and guidelines at the time of import.

National Commission on Rural Labour

302. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour has sought the views of voluntary organisations in States and experts for the overall development of rural labour; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the voluntary organisations thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Questionnaire circulated by the Commission seeks the views on the various aspects of rural labour, such as, conditions of work, organisation of rural labour, wages, employment generation, social security migration of labour, land reforms, bonded labour and problems of women and children. In addition to the above cited general Questionnaire, views of the Voluntary organisations have also been sought through another Questionnaire on the problems and suggestions regarding minimum wages paid to rural labour. The replies to the Questionnaire have been reaching the Office of the Commission.

Sponge Iron Plant at Daitori, Orissa

303. SHRI BAIKUNTHNATH SAHU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a sponge iron plant at Daitori in Orissa;

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India has been assigned the task to set up the sponge iron plant;

(c) if so, when that sponge iron plant is going to be set up at Daitori; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) SAIL is at present examining the feasibility of setting up of a sponge iron plant based on natural gas at different locations in the country, including Daitori in Orissa.

Hike in price of rice for P.D.S.

304. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which rice is being purchased from the farmers for the Central Pool;

(b) the rate at which rice is being given for public distribution system; and

(c) the reasons for the recent hike in the prices of rice meant for Public Distribution System?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No rice is purchased from farmers for the Central Pool. However, paddy is being purchased, against voluntary offers by the farmers under the Government's price support scheme, at the following rates:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Variety	Rate
Common	160/
Fine	170/
Superfine	180/

(b) and (c) On account of the increase in the support price of paddy for the 1988-89 kharif marketing season, the Central issue price of rice meant for the public distribution system has been increased to Rs. 244, Rs. 304, Rs. 325 per quintal for common, fine and superfine rice, respectively.

Telecast of Special Programmes on the Death of Prem Nazir

305. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which Doordarshan did not telecast any special programmes on the National network after the death of Prem Nazir, the Malayalam Cine actor who holds a world record;

(b) what is Government's assessment regarding contribution of late Shri Prem Nazir to Indian cinema;

(c) the length of programme and number of special programmes on Raj Kapoor telecast after the death of late Shri Raj Kapoor;

(d) whether Government propose to telecast any special programme on Prem Nazir in the near future; and

(e) whether Government propose to telecast any film starring late Shri Prem Nazir on the national network?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Tributes paid to Prem Nazir were included in the special report covering the 12th International Film Festival of India telecast on 16-1-1989. His death was also covered in the Doordarshan News Bulletins. Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum also telecast programmes of tributes to Prem Nazir.

(b) Shri Prem Nazir was a Doyen in the field of Indian Cinema. He was an artist of highest calibre who not only entertained the masses but also symbolised our commitment to secularism and social justice.